

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06294 281441Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----125989 282230Z /15
R 281405Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3152
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ASD:ISA/DSAA//
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
USMTM/DCR RIYADH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4-7//
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T JIDDA 6294

LIMDIS DISTRIBUTE AS EXDIS
EXDIS
MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, YE, US
SUBJECT: NON- TRANSFER ASSURANCES

REF: (A) STATE 217681 DTG 260008Z AUG 78
(B) JIDDA 5784 DTG 071212Z AUG 78
(C) JIDDA 5695 DTG 031558Z AUG 78
(D) JIDDA 5694 DTG 031530Z AUG 78

1. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENTS DESIRE TO PRESERVE
FOR U.S. THE ULTIMATE DISCRETION IN MAKING OUR DECISIONS ON
TRANSFER PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD THE UNLIKELY EVENT
ARISE THAT OUR INTERESTS AND VIEWS ON A PARTICULAR TRANSFER
NOT COINCIDE WITH SAG VIEWS. WE THINK WE CAN PROBABLY PERSUADE SAG
TO ACCEPT EXCHANGE OF NOTES IN WHICH WE AGREE ONLY TO
CONSULT WITH SAG BEFORE GIVING OUR CONSENT.

2. HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT, BEFORE WE DISCUSS THIS WITH
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SAG, DEPARTMENT SHOULD RECONSIDER ITS DECISION THAT THE
EXCHANGE OF NOTES PROCEDURE BE APPLIED ONLY TO THAT
EQUIPMENT SAUDIS ARE RETRANSFERRING AND NOT TO SAUDI-
FINANCED ITEMS. WE DO NOT THINK SAG WILL ACCEPT THIS
SOLUTION. PRINCE SAUD TOLD US AUGUST 6 (REF B) THAT
SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT INSIST ON HAVING EXCHANGE OF NOTES
ON EQUIPMENT THAT U.S. PAID FOR,BUT HE INDICATED THAT

SAG EXPECTED TO BE CONSULTED ON THE TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT
IT HAS PAID FOR.

3. DEPARTMENT AS (REF A) POINTS OUT, SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES WOULD
ADD LITTLE REAL SAUDI CONTROL OVER DISPOSITION OF THE
EQUIPMENT BEYOND THAT OBTAINED FROM NON-TRANSFER ASSUR-
ANCES THEY SECURE DIRECTLY FROM THE RECIPIENT. BY THE
SAME TOKEN, IT DOES NOT DEROGATE FROM ULTIMATE U.S. DIS-
CRETION IN OUR OWN DECISIONS ON TRANSFER PERMISSION
REQUESTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOES SHOW A MEASURE
OF U.S. SENSITIVITY TO SAUDI FEELINGS AND IS IN KEEPING
WITH THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION WHICH
SHOULD MARK OUR JOINT EFFORTS ON SUCH MATTERS. THE U.S.
HAS TOLD SAUDI ARABIA THAT IT CONSIDERS THE LATTER TO
BE PARAMOUNT POWER ON PENINSULA (REFS C AND D).
SAUDI ARABIA WANTS SOME OF THE RESPECT THAT GOES WITH
THE ROLE.

4. WE REALIZE THAT THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE A MARKED
DEPARTURE FROM CURRENT FMS PRACTICE AND POLICY, BUT
THERE ARE PROBABLY NOT MANY FMS CASES WHERE ONE COUNTRY
MAKES MAJOR PURCHASES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE U.S.
FOR A THIRD COUNTRY.
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